

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 CU-04 /103 W

-----016918 290017Z /70

R 282216Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9153

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 05026

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS INTERVIEW WHICH  
INCLUDES STATEMENTS REGARDING CHICANO GROUPS IN THE US.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS  
TAKEN FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY  
ROEL WHICH APPEARED IN SIEMPRE MAGAZINE MARCH 29, 1978.

2. BURNING ISSUES: AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLES, LET US CONSIDER  
PANAMA AND BELIZE. WHAT IS MEXICO'S POSITION IN REGARD TO  
THE NEW TREATIES WHICH ARE BEING DEBATED IN THE UNITED  
STATES SENATE AND WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN RATIFIED BY THE  
PEOPLE OF PANAMA? WELL, ONE, WHICH IS CONSTANT: MEXICO  
HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY OF PANAMA  
OVER THE CANAL. THIS POSITION HAS BEEN SUPPORTED SINCE  
1903 WHEN THE FIRST TREATY REGARDING THE SUBJECT TOOK  
PLACE. NOW, OUR PRESENT ADMINISTRATION ISSUED A LETTER OF  
SUPPORT TO PANAMA AND THIS WAS THE FIRST OF THIS TYPE IS-  
SUED IN LATIN AMERICA. THE ACTIONS OF COLOMBIA AND

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VENEZUELA TOOK PLACE LATER. LET THIS BE CLEAR.

3. NOW WITH REFERENCE TO BILATERAL AGREEMENT PROBLEMS -  
LAND AND WATER, RAILROADS, EDUCATION, PAYMENT OF TOLLS FOR  
SHIPS, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, ETC, - THESE ARE THE EXCLUSIVE  
CONCERNS OF PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES AND IN THESE  
MATTERS MEXICO DOESNOT, CANNOT, AND SHOULD NOT INTERVENE

SINCE MEXICO DEFENDS AND SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION AND OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLE. WE DO NOT WISH TO BE TREATED LIKE IRRESPONSIBLE YOUNGSTERS UNABLE TO DIRECT OUR OWN LIVES OR AS CHILDREN IN NEED OF GUARDIANS, AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO CONSIDER OTHER NATIONS IN THOSE SPITEFUL TERMS.

3. FOR THAT REASON, IF MEXICO'S DIRECTION IS TO BE TOWARD LIBERTY FOR ALL PEOPLE, WITH RESPECT TO DEMOCRACY, AND TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE - AND THIS IS THE BELIEF OF OUR CHANCERY AS A RESULT OF OUR REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT - WE BELIEVE THAT NICARAGUA MUST MAKE ITS OWN DETERMINATION AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA WILL DO SO. SOLIDARITY IS ONE THING AND INTERVENTION IS ANOTHER. THE FRENCH INTERVENTION WHICH WE SUFFERED DURING THE LAST CENTURY IS AN ELOQUENT LESSON WHICH WE CAN USE TO SHOW THIS POINT. IN MY OPINION, UNSOLICITED AID AND LIBERATION WHICH COMES FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES AS CHARITABLE OR "MAGNAMIMOUS" ACTS HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE OF COLLECTIVE WARS, OR TO AVOID EUPHEMISMS, THE CAUSE OF UNIVERSAL SLAUGHTER.

4. WITH REGARD TO BELIZE, MEXICO IS NOT UNAWARE OF ITS HISTORICAL RIGHTS. BUT IT WILL NEVER INVOKE THEM WITH EXPANSIONIST PRETENSIONS. THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF BELIZE SHOULD BE SOUGHT - I HOPE WITHIN A PROPER FORUM - AS PART OF A NEGOTIATED AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. SUCH WAS MEXICO'S PROPOSAL - THE DESIRES OF GUATEMALA IN THIS CASE ARE A-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTHER PROBLEM - MADE AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY 124 OUT OF THE 129 COUNTRIES WHICH MAKE UP THE UN.

5. CHICANOS: THE "BRACEROS", BOTH MEXICAN WORKERS EMI-GRATING TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE "UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS", ARE ONE THING AND THE CHICANO GROUPS ARE ANOTHER.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE FIRST GROUP, THE CARTER LAW (SIC) IS STILL BEING DEBATED IN THE SENATE AND THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT GOING TO INTERVENE IN THESE DEBATES. WHEN THE APPROPRIATE HEARINGS TAKE PLACE, MEXICO, WITHOUT INTERFERING DIRECTLY IN AMERICAN POLICY, WILL EXPOUND ITS POINTS OF VIEW. WE REJECT ANY POSSIBLE "SOLUTION" OF THIS PROBLEM BASED ON REPRESSIVE OR POLICE ACTION, AND WE WOULD LIKE FOR THIS PROBLEM TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEM AND THAT ANY SOLUTIONS BE TAKEN WITH THAT AS A CONSIDERATION.

7. WITH REGARD TO THE CHICANOS, WHO COUNT ON OUR SYMPATHY, WHO HAVE OUR AFFECTION AS THEY ARE MEXICANS "FROM THE ROOT", AND WHO ARE HEIRS OF A GREAT PART OF OUR CULTURE

AND CARRY OUR BLOOD, - IT IS AN OBLIGATION, REASONABLE, LOGICAL, AND JUST, TO CONSIDER THAT THEY ARE AMERICANS BY BIRTH, RESIDENCE, LIFE EXPERIENCE, AND CUSTOM. THEY ARE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES - SIMILAR TO ETHNIC POLES, ITALIANS, ETC. - AND THEY ARE GOVERNED BY THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, NOT BY THE LAWS OF MEXICO. THEIR STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EMANCIPATION SHOULD BE LOOKED UPON SYMPATHETICALLY; BUT NOT IN A MANNER TO TRY TO MAKE THEM CITIZENS BY ADOPTION OR TO ATTEMPT TO TURN THE TERRITORY OR THE FATHERLAND WHICH THEY HAVE CHOSEN UP SIDE DOWN, AS THIS WOULD BE AN ABSURD INTERVENTION AND AN ABER- RATION AND A FLAGRANT CONTRADICTION OF OUR BASIC NATIONAL

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PRINCIPLES.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT ROEL FEELS THAT THE AMERICAN AND MEXICAN PRESS HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GOM AND CHICANO ORGANIZATIONS, AND THAT HE USED THE INTERVIEW AS AN OP- PORTUNITY TO STATE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MAINTAIN STRONG OR OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH THESE GROUPS. THE PRESS REPORTS, SOME OF WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE GOM COULD OR WOULD USE THE CHICANO ORGANIZATIONS AS POLITICAL ALLIES IN THE UNITED STATES, STEMMED FROM A MEETING HELD IN JANUARY BETWEEN A NUMBER OF CHICANO LEADERS AND PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO. ALTHOUGH, AS ROEL STATES, THE CHICANOS AND THE GOM HAVE A GREAT NUMBER OF COMMON INTERESTS AND BONDS, WE

BELIEVE THAT THE GOM, ESPECIALLY AFTER LEARNING MORE ABOUT  
THE DIVERSE CHICANO GROUPS, IS WARY OF BEING PUBLICLY AND  
POLITICALLY IDENTIFIED WITH CHICANO GROUPS IN THE U. S.

10. EMBASSY WILL POUCH COMPLETE COPY OF INTERVIEW TO  
ARA/MEX. LUCEY  
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## Message Attributes

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